Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06600 252337Z ACTION ARA-14

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O R 252320Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WAHDC IMMEDIATE 1119 INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY QUITO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT PE SUBJ: SUTEP UPDATE

REF: (A)LIMA 6418, (B) LIMA 6390, (C) LIMA 6290

1. OFFICIAL REPORTS STATE THAT THERE WERE NO RPT NO DEATHS DURING JULY 18 CLASHES BETWEEN GUARDIA CIVIL AND STRIKING TEACHERS OF SUTEP AND NON-TEACHER SUPPORTERS. SEVERAL NEWS-PAPERS PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS OF A HOSPITALIZED TEACHER WHO ERRONEOUSLY HAD BEEN REPORTED KILLED AFTER BEING STRUCK BY A TEAR GAS BOMB (REFTEL A). THE TEACHER HIMSELF AFTER LEAVING THE HOSPITAL ADDRESSED A LETTER TO THE PRESS CORRECTING THE REPORT AND REITERATING HIS SUPPORT FOR SUTEP'S CAUSE.

2. ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 19, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1977 GENERAL STRIKE, MOSCOW LINE CGTP MEMBERS AND OTHER LEFTIST POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS MET IN THE PLAZA DOS DE MAYO. THE MEETING HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO CALL FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 06600 252337Z

THE RETURN OF ALL DEPORTEES INCLUDING THOSE NOT ELECTED TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. BUT, WITH THE WIND TAKEN OUT OF THE SAILS BY THE RECENT POLITICAL AMNESTY AND SURROUNDED BY POLICE, SPEAKERS COULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN RUN THROUGH A FAMILIAR LITANY OF COMPLAINTS. ISIDRO GAMARRA, CGTP LEADER AND PCP CANDIDATE, CALLED ONCE AGAIN FOR A SOLUTION TO THE TEACHERS STRIKE AND CRITICIZED THE LABOR STABILITY LAW. PEKING LINE COMMUNIST

VICTOR CUADROS, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MINE AND METAL WORKERS, ANNOUNCED THAT MINERS WILL STRIKE AUGUST 2 TO DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHY WITH THE TEACHERS. CUADROS' APPEARANCE AT A CGTP RALLY WAS UNUSUAL AND AN INDICATION OF THE WIDENING SUPPORT THE TEACHERS STRIKE HAS GATHERED. THE MEETING WAS, ON THE WHOLE, PEACEFUL, BUT GUARDIA CIVIL AT ONE POINT REPORTEDLY USED TEAR GAS TO CONTAIN A SMALL OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE.

3. SUTEP CONTINUES TO STAGE DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS IN LIMA. THE PROPORTION OF NON-TEACHERS (PROBABLY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS) IN THESE PROTESTS SEEMS TO BE GROWING. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A COMMITTEE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE INITIATED MEETINGS WITH SUTEP LEADERS PARENTS GROUPS, THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND OTHER TEACHING ORGANIZATIONS JULY 22. THE PRIME MINISTER JULY 24 ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT A SOLUTION TO THE STRIKE WAS EXPECTED "VERY PROBABLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS". A CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE STRIKE HAS BEEN THAT OF GOP RECOGNITION OF SUTEP. ACCORDING TO JULY 23 PRESS REPORTS THE GOP WAS DEALING WITH THE CURRENT SUTEP LEADERS MOST OF WHOM ARE COMMUNISTS. HOWEVER THE ROLE OF THE APRISTA GROUP WITHIN SUTEP THAT IS VYING WITH THE COMMUNISTS FOR CONTROL OF THE ORGANIZATION HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED. SHLAUDEMAN

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